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CALL FOR PROTESTS AGAINST BRITISH ARMS DEAL

Indonesia to co-produce Hawk fighter aircraft with British Aerospace

Indonesia needs 69 Hawks, says Habibie

On 20 June, British Aerospace signed a Memorandum of Understanding with B.J. Habibie, chief executive of IPTN (Nusantara Aircraft Industries), to co-produce Hawk fighter/trainer aircraft. Specific contracts on how much of the work will be done in the UK and how much in Indonesia still have to be negotiated. British government licences for complete aircraft and/or components, whichever is to leave the UK, are still needed.

The Memorandum was signed in London during a visit here by Habibie, who is also Minister for Research and Technology. Habibie was received at 10 Downing Street by Prime Minister John Major and held discussions with Alan Clarke, Minister for Defence Procurement.

The BAe Press Release said that the agreement had been signed "to serve the needs of the Government of Indonesia". Habibie said in London that his country needed 69 Hawk aircraft [*Janes Defence Weekly*, 29 June 1991]. Indonesia already operates 20 Hawk aircraft.

With a Hawk aircraft currently costing around $27.5 million (depending on the model), this deal could be worth nearly $2 billion.

It is also thought likely that this co-production arrangement could turn Indonesia into a co-producer of the Hawk to serve the Southeast Asia and Pacific markets.

Please protest in the strongest terms to the British Government, calling on it not to issue licences for the export of Hawk aircraft or components. You should address your protest to Douglas Hurd, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, preferably handing it in to the British Embassy in your country, perhaps even together with a demonstration or vigil. Please try also to get press publicity for your action.

We suggest that in your protest, you mention not only Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor and continued military operations there, in defiance of UN resolutions, but also the killings and atrocities currently under way in Aceh.

Please inform us of your actions and send any press coverage.

27 June 1991